EXTENT OF THE JURISDICTION OF CONCILIATION OFFICERS.

MR. JOSEPH VITHAYATHIL: Sir, I beg to move the following resolutions:

"This Assembly recommends to the Government that immediate steps be taken for affording relief to the agriculturist-debtors in all parts of the State by extending the jurisdiction of the Conciliation Officers."

Sir, when the Agriculturists Relief Bill was discussed in the Assembly many members expressed their opinion that Conciliation Board should be established all over the State. The objection brought forward by Government was that the financial implications of such a scheme would be great. But the Government assured the honourable members that after establishing the Boards, in selected areas as an experiment and after gaining experience in the working of those Boards, Government would consider the question of widening the jurisdiction of the Boards or of establishing additional Boards. I do not know, as I am not supplied with the necessary statistics, how the Boards already established are working.

PRESIDENT: The honourable member may take it that practically all that could be done is being attended to.

MR. JOSEPH VITHAYATHIL: Sir, I think that the Conciliation Officers have practically not much work to do.

PRESIDENT: In fact until the Bank begins to work.

MR. JOSEPH VITHAYATHIL: Sir, the debtors now have apparently no attraction for these Boards. It must be that unless money is forthcoming to pay off the creditors the debtors will have no inducement to get the debts conciliated. That is why people are not resorting to these Boards. It is not because there are no agricultural debtors in the State. But in the meanwhile, since most of these officers are without work, there is no justification in excluding some areas from their jurisdiction. I know that in certain parts there are debtors, as there must be in other parts of the State also who really want to get their debts conciliated and who may be able to pay off the creditors even without the help of a bank. Even before establishing a bank there is no harm in extending the jurisdiction of the present Boards so that the people who may be able to take advantage of these Boards may be benefited. And again it is necessary to extend the jurisdiction of the Boards so as to prepare the way for the Bank to function properly. Before the Bank is established it is useful that some preparation is made in that direction.

My submission is that immediately the jurisdiction of these Boards should be extended so as to cover all parts of the State, not only territorially but also from the pecuniary point of view. There is no justification in limiting their pecuniary jurisdiction, because the awards of these Boards have not got the force of decrees. They will have to

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. Jeseph Vithayathil.]

be considered by civil courts. That being so, there is every reason for enhancing their pecuniary jurisdiction. There is no logic in allowing only the debtors with liabilities up to a particular amount to have their debts conciliated. There is no remedy provided for in the Regulation to help people with heavier liabilities.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI: May I know whether the member wants an extension of jurisdiction of the existing Boards or the appointment of more officers?

MR. JOSEPH VITHAYATHIL: I suggested only the extension of jurisdiction of the existing officers. I stated that even at the beginning of the resolution. Further, at present the officers have no work to do. It is only proper that their jurisdiction is extended so that debtors in all places who want to avail themselves of conciliation may have recourse to them. Therefore I am of opinion that, not only territorially but pecuniarily also, the jurisdiction of Boards should be extended as to afford relief to all agricultural debtors in the State.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Sir, I second it. It is with very great pleasure I do so. I was a member of the Select Committee appointed for the purpose of considering the original bill relating to conciliation of debts. I had recorded a strong protest in my dissenting minute against no provision having been made in the bill as advised by the Select Committee for giving relief of conciliation to all the agriculturist debtors of the State. With this object in view I moved an amendment to the effect that the total territorial jurisdiction of all the debt conciliation Boards which were to be established by Government, should embrace the whole State. That amendment was carried by an overwhelming majority. But at the third reading of the Bill, the Learned Law Member moved an amendment for the deletion of this particular clause by which the Government were bound to include all parts of the State within the territorial jurisdiction of some Board or other. Unfortunately, against the teeth of opposition, by the persuasive and persistent efforts of the Learned Law Member, his amendment was carried. Consequently, there is no provision in the present Agriculturists Relief Bill making it obligatory on the part of the Government to give relief of conciliation to all the agriculturist debtors of the State. The most important provision in the Agriculturists Relief Bill is provision for debt conciliation by the Boards established for the purpose. All the agriculturist debtors are not, by want of such a provision, enabled at present to enjoy the beneficial results of the Regulation.

Sir, I have been repeatedly submitting representations as a member of this House urging on the attention of Government the indispensable necessity of establishing a debt Conciliation Board at Chengannur or for including all *pakuthies* of Tiruvalla taluk within the jurisdiction of some other board at least. Even at present Sir,

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

I am given to understand that some *pakuthies* of Tiruvalla taluk are included within the jurisdiction of Changsnachery Debt Conciliation Board. When the judgment debtors of these *pakuthies* which are included within the jurisdiction of the Changanachery Debt Conciliation Board are brought under arrest to Civil Courts, they get benefit under the provisions of the Regulation dealing with debt conciliation. But at the same time, the judgment debtors brought under arrest before the court from the other *pakuthies* of the same taluk, are completely denied the benefit of this provision on account of the part that those *pakuthies* are not included within the jurisdiction of any Board. I submit, Sir, that creates much hardship and it gives heart-burning to a section of the inhabitants of particular *pakuthies*, in one and the same taluk. Hence, in heartily supporting the resolution. I would bring to the immediate attention of Government the extreme necessity for the early establishmen of a Debt Conciliation Board at Chengannur or for including the *pakuthies of* Tiruvalla taluk within the jurisdiction of another Board that is already established in another part of Travancore. With these observations I support the resolution.

MR. E. JOHN PHILIPOSE: May I know whether the honourable member is in favour of enhancing the pecuniary jurisdiction of the conciliation officers?

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: I leave that matter to the good sense of the Government.

I also maintain that the Agriculturist debtors in the State, wherever resident, should be enabled to enjoy the benefits that are to arise out of debt conciliation proceedings before a Board. This is only a just and legitimate demand which I hope the Government would grant immediately.

MR. M. G. MATTHEW (*Karunagapalli* cum *Karthikapalli*); Sir, I have very great pleasure to support the resolution which seeks to extend the jurisdiction of the conciliation officers territorially as well as pecuniarily. As has now been represented before the House, litigant parties who reside in many different taluks are without a remedy whatever as far as their debt conciliation is concerned. Except in places where these Boards are established, when people are under arrest and taken to courts, for debts and they want to effect a stay of execution of the decrees and also save their properties from being brought to sale, they find it difficult to get a remedy in as much as they do not have a Board. In the same way, sometimes a judgment debtor whose properties are brought to sale for say Rs. 4,000 or Rs. 5,000 may have to put in an application for conciliation before a Board for a far bigger amount, Though they stay within the jurisdiction of the board, they find it impossible to put their application because the pecuniary jurisdiction of this Board is only less than the total debt. I can cite an instance of a judgment debtor whose properties were brought to sale for an amount of Rs. 7,000 who wanted to put in an application before the Board at Quilon, and he owed a debt of more than Rs. 10,000. He could not do so because the Board could entertain applications for debts

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. M. G. Mathew.]

up to ten thousand rupees only. This is a case where eventhough a Board is established, people who want to put in an application are denied the privilege of canciliation because the pecuniary jurisdiction has not been extended to more than Rs 10,000. That also is a matter which should engage the pointed attention of the Government. When they want to enhance the jurisdiction of the conciliation officers they must raise the pecuniary jurisdiction also. Without these two enhancements, both pecuniary as well as territorial jurisdiction, the enactment of Debt Conciliation Regulation is practically of little use to a considerable number of the people of the State. With these words I support the motion.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI: സർ, ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ ബലമായി പിൻതാങ്ങുന്നു. ദക്ഷിണതിരുവിതാംകൂറിന്റെ ദക്ഷിണപ്രദേശവും തിരുവനന്തപുരം നാഗരുകോവിൽ ഈ സ്ഥലങ്ങളുടെ മദ്ധ്യപ്രദേശവുമായ കഴിത്തുറ എന്ന സ്ഥലം വിളവംകോട്ടതാലൂക്കിന്റെ ഒരു പ്രധാനസ്ഥലമാണ്. ആ സ്ഥലം പനയും പാറയും കൊണ്ടു നിറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുകയാണ്. മരുഭൂമിപോലെ കുടിക്കാൻ വെള്ളംകിട്ടാത്തതും കാളറ മുതലായ മഹാരോഗങ്ങൾ തുടർച്ചയായി ഉണ്ടായിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതുമായ ഒരു സ്ഥലമാണ് അത്.

MR. E. P. VERGESE. അവിടെ അളുകൾ താമസമില്ലെ?

MR T. C. KESAVA PILLAI: അളുകൾ താമസമുണ്ടു; പക്ഷേ അനേകലക്ഷം അളുകൾ കാളറ മുതലായ രോഗങ്ങൾകൊണ്ടു മരിക്കുന്നു. ഇതിനു നിവാരണം ചെയ്യുന്നതിനു ശുദ്ധജലവിതരണം ശരിയായി നടത്തിരുത്തണമെന്നു് ഞങ്ങൾ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെ അറിയിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു. ദിവാൻ പ്രസിഡൻറു് അവർകൾ ഇടനാട്ടുകാരുടെ മംഗളപത്രത്തിനു് ഇടനാട്ടിനും നാഞ്ചിനാട്ടിനും കരം ഇളവുചെയ്യുമെന്നു പറഞ്ഞുവെങ്കിലും വിളവംകോടു താലൂക്കിലേക്കു യാതൊരു കരവും കുറവു ചെയ്തില്ല. അവിടെയുള്ളവർക്കു് കരം സൗജന്യം ചെയ്തുകൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ ഞങ്ങൾക്കു് വലിയ സങ്കടമുണ്ടു്. കരം തീരെ കുറഞ്ഞ ഭൂമികൾക്കു ഇളവുചെയ്തു കൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിലും തരിശു സ്ഥലങ്ങളെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു് ഒരു ലിസ്റ്റു് റവന്യൂ കമ്മീഷണർക്കു് അയച്ചിട്ടു ഇതുവരെ യാതൊരു പരിഹാരവും ഉണ്ടാക്കിത്തന്നിട്ടില്ല. ഇതിലേയ്ക്കു എന്നെയാണു് ഉൾനാട്ടിലെ ജനങ്ങൾ കുറപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതു. അവിടത്തെ യഥാർത്ഥനിലയെപ്പറ്റി ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെ അറിയിക്കാത്തതുകൊണ്ടാണു് അതിനു പരിഹാരം ഉണ്ടാക്കിത്തരാത്തതു്. നിങ്ങളെ തിരഞ്ഞെടുത്തതിനു പകരം വേറെ ആരെ എങ്കിലും അയച്ചിരുന്നുവെങ്കിൽ വേണ്ട

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പരിഹാരം ഞങ്ങൾക്കു ഉണ്ടാക്കിത്തരുമായിരുന്നു എന്ന് എന്നെ കുറ പ്പെടുത്തിവരുന്നു. അബ്കാരി കൺട്രാക്ടന്മാർക്ക് കരം ഇളവുചെയ്തു കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതു് അത്യാവശ്യമാണു്. ഞങ്ങളുടെ താലൂക്കിൽ മഴ ഇല്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ടു് കൃഷിയിൽനിന്നും ആദായം ഒന്നുംലഭിക്കുന്നില്ല. പനയിൽനിന്നും കിട്ടുന്ന ആദായം ഒരു സമുദായത്തിനു മാത്രമേ ലഭിക്കുന്നുള്ളു. വേറെ വ്യവസായം യാതൊന്നുംതന്നെ അവിടെ ഇല്ല. കിട്ടുന്ന പണംമുഴുവനും കരംകൊടുക്കണം. ഈ വർഷക്കാലമായി ഞങ്ങൾ പല ചിട്ടി ഇടപാടുകളിലും ഉൾപ്പെട്ടു് ക്ഷാമംകൊണ്ടു് ഏറ്റുപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുള്ള ചിട്ടികളും മറ്റും തീർക്കാൻ സൗകര്യമില്ലാതെ ഗുരുതരമായ ഒരു അവസ്ഥയിൽ എത്തിയിരിക്കുകയാണു്. പണക്കാർ വളരെ കുറച്ചുപേർ മാത്രമേയുള്ളു. അവർ സ്ഥാവരവസ്തുവിനെ ആസ്പദമാക്കി പണംകൊടുക്കുന്നില്ല. തൻനിമിത്തം അനേകായിരം പണം വിലയുള്ള ഞങ്ങളുടെ വസ്തുക്കളെല്ലാം ലേലത്തിൽപോകുന്നു. ഈ കാരണങ്ങളാൽ ഞങ്ങളുടെ സ്ഥലത്തു ഒരു കൺസിലേഷൻ ബോർഡു് സ്ഥാപിച്ചുതരണമെന്നു് പലരും ചേർന്നു് അപേക്ഷ അയച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. കരയുന്ന കുഞ്ഞിനേ പാലുള്ളു എന്നു് പറയുന്നതു് പരമാർത്ഥമാണു്. കൺസിലിയേഷൻ ബോർഡിന്റെ ഹെഡാഫീസു് കോട്ടയത്തു ആയിരിക്കുന്നതാണു് എന്നാണു ചീഫ് സെക്രട്ടറി എന്റെ ഒരു ചോദ്യത്തിനു് മറുപടി പറഞ്ഞതു്. പല കാരണവശാലും തെക്കൻതിരുവിതാംകൂർകാർ ഇന്നു് വളരെ അവശത അനുഭവിക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗന്മാരെ എല്ലാം കൊല്ലുന്നതിനു് ഒരു ആരാച്ചാരെ അയക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള പ്രത്യേകഅവകാശം മാത്രമേ ഞങ്ങൾക്കു ഇന്നുള്ളു.

MR. T. P. VELAYUHAN PILLAI: ആരാച്ചാരെ എവിടെ നിന്നാണു് അയക്കുന്നതു്.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI: തെക്കൻതിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ നിന്നുമാണു് പതിവായി ആരാച്ചാരെ അയച്ചുവരുന്നതു്.

നെയ്യാറ്റുങ്കര, തിരുവനന്തപുരം ഈ സ്ഥലങ്ങളുടെ മദ്ധ്യപ്രദേശമായ കുഴിത്തുറ, വിളവങ്കോടു താലൂക്കിന്റെ മുഴുവൻ പകുതികളും ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തി ഒരു കൺസിലിയേഷൻ ബോർഡു സ്ഥാപിച്ചുതരേണ്ടതു വളരെ അത്യാവശ്യമാണു്. നാഗർകോവിൽ തിരുവനന്തപുരം മുതലായ കോടതികളിൽ ഓൺസ്ഥലങ്ങൾ മാത്രമേ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തികാണുന്നുള്ളു. അതുകൊണ്ടു് കേസ്സുകൾ തിരെ വരുന്നില്ല. ദിവാജി അവർകൾ ചെയ്ത പ്രസംഗം യഥാർത്ഥമായി വരണമെങ്കിൽ അദ്ദേഹം ഉദ്ദേശി

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. T. C. Kesava Pillai.]

ച്ചേർത്തിലുള്ള ഒരു ബാങ്ക് ഇവിടെ സ്ഥാപിച്ചാൽ മാത്രമേ സാധിക്കുകയുള്ളൂ. ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഇന്നത്തെ സങ്കടത്തിനു ഒരു പരിഹാരം അതുകൊണ്ടു മാത്രമേ ലഭിക്കുകയുള്ളൂ. കഴിഞ്ഞതിനു ശേഷം ബോർഡ് സ്ഥാപിച്ചതുപോലെതന്നെ ഒരു ബാങ്ക സ്ഥാപിച്ചു ജനങ്ങളുടെ സങ്കടത്തെ പരിഹരിക്കണമെന്നും അപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ ഞാൻ ബലമായി പിൻതാങ്ങുന്നു.

MR. E. P. VARGHESE : I wish to add a few remarks in support of the resolution before the House. It was brought to the notice of the Government at the time of the discussion of the Agriculturists' Relief Bill that it would be an invidious distinction to exclude from whatever benefits may be derived from the Bill any portion of the State. Now we find that many of the taluks have no Conciliation Boards. My suggestion is no to increase the number of Conciliation Boards at present, because even the few Conciliation Officers who are appointed have very little work, but that the pecuniary and territorial jurisdiction of the present Conciliation Officers should be enhanced. In this connection I am in entire agreement with all that has been said by the honourable member who moved the resolution. The present Conciliation Officers will have more work if their territorial jurisdicaion is extended Further it will also enable those who are willing or desirous to take the benefit of this Regulation to do so. I also had complaints, as Mr. T. C Kesava Pillai said, from many of the voters in my constituency that the Conciliation Board at Alleppey has no jurisdiction in Shertallai taluk. I think it can be easily done without any inconvenience to the Government. The Conciliation Officers at present have very little work. So the addition of the neighbouring taluks will in no way, burden him with much work. When the Agricultural Bank is established, and if it is found that the people are taking to this relief more and more and when these Conciliation Officers whose jurisdiction have been extended find it difficult to cope with the work, then Government can add to the number of Conciliation Officers. But at present, by this resolution we do not propose to bring in additional financial burden on the Government What I would request the Government is to extend the territorial jurisdiction of the Conciliation Officers to the neighbouring taluks. Wherever there is a Conciliation Officer, his territorial jurisdiction may be extended either side. His pecuniary jurisdiction may also be extended. I think it will not do much harm if his pecuniary jurisdiction is also extended so that people may take to it more and more.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Nominated*) : Does the member advocate unlimited pecuniary jurisdiction ?

MR. E. P. VARGHEBE : I think I can do that. Where there are sufficiently experienced officers, they may be given unlimited pecuniary

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

jurisdiction. Now the District Judges have unlimited pecuniary jurisdiction. So there is no harm in many of these officers having unlimited pecuniary jurisdiction because they are people who have had sufficient experience in the line.

Ms. P. V. MATHAI CHEMPARATHY (*Minachil* cum *Todupuzha*): I rise to support the resolution. The object of the Conciliation Boards is to relieve the indebtedness of the agriculturists of the State as a whole. But as it is, it is not serving the real purpose. Some localities are being entirely left out of the jurisdiction of the Conciliation Boards and those places are mainly inhabited by agriculturists. There are Todupuzha and Minachil taluks which have no Conciliation Boards. Those taluks are mainly inhabited by agriculturists and they have not the privilege of enjoying the benefits of these Boards I request the Government to make arrangements so that these taluks may also get the benefits of the Boards. With these words, I once again support the resolution.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: I am in agreement with much of what has been said on this resolution thought I formally oppose it. These conciliation Boards have been set up only very recently, and it was expected, when they were set up that they may be flooded with conciliation applications and that it may not be possible for them to cope with all the applications that come to them. There are at present 8 Boards functioning over ten taluks and it has been found that the number of applications received by them all till the end of Kanni 1113 is but 758 or so, and of these about 300 have been disposed of. This has been noted by Government, and proposals are now before the Government to extend the jurisdiction of these Boards. And I am sure that many of the grievances felt in some quarters may be redressed when the jutisdiction is so extended.

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM: May I know whether the disposals mentioned were effected on the merits of the applications?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: There was only one conciliation agreement registered till now. The total number of applications, dismissed for default is 251. The disposals in other ways is 261. Certificates have been issued in six cases.

MR. K. KESAVAN: കൊല്ലത്ത് ഏഗ്രിമെന്റ് രജിസ്റ്റർ ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതായി അറിവുണ്ടോ?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: It may be after Kanni and my statement re figures till the end of Kanni. Very likely one has been registered in Quilon.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI May I know how the disposals other than the seven cases have been arrived at?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: They have been dismissed evidently.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. A. THANU PILLAI : May I know whether there is not a provision that when an enquiry is to be settled either a certificate should be granted or an agreement arrived at ?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI : The Board is not *bound* to issue a certificate. It *may* issue a certificate.

This smallness in the number of cases has been noted by the Government and recently they have started an inquiry for extending the territorial jurisdiction of these Boards. When this proposal is carried into effect, many more taluks will have Boards,

MR. JOSEPH VITHAYATHIL : Is the member aware that applications have been put in before the Conciliation Boards by people alleging that they are living within the jurisdiction of those Boards while they are really not living there ?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI : I am not aware. But I am prepared to accept the information offered by the member.

MR. JOSEPH VITHAYATHIL : Does the member know that these applications are made because they have no Conciliation Boards ?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI : May be. However there the proposal for extending the jurisdiction of these Boards. The proposal before the Government is to extend the territorial jurisdiction of these Boards so that most of the taluks may have some Board or other to save them. In order that the conciliation applications may end effectively in most cases it is necessary that a Bank should supplement the work of the Conciliation Officers. That Bank is now projected and in the course of a few months it is expected that it may start functioning. When the Bank starts functioning there will be more beneficent activities on the part of the Conciliation Officers because when there is a Bank to pay off the conciliated debts it is very likely that applications may came in larger numbers. I can say for the present that very shortly orders will be issued extending the jurisdiction of the Conciliation Boards. I trust that the mover of the resolution will find his way to withdraw it on this assurance.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI : May I know whether there is any report from the Chief Conciliation Officer as to the prospective work of these Boards ?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI : He has given his opinion.

MR. KOTALIL P. ABRAHAM : May I know thether the proposal is to extend both the territorial and pecuniary jurisdiction ?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI : Both the proposals are before the Government. But the proposal immediately before the Government is to extend territorial jurisdiction.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI : വിളവംകോട്ട താലൂക്കിലെ എത്തെല്ലാം പകുതികം ചേർക്കണമെന്നുദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നു?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI : That also will be considered. The Chief Conciliation Officer has made recommendation with regard to the extension of the territorial jurisdiction.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. M. G. MATTHEW: Is the proposal of the Government to extend pecuniary jurisdiction without limit?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: I cannot say anything definite on that point. That also will be considered.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Mavelikara* cum *Kunnattur*): May I know the total cost for getting this one agreement effected?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: It is a matter of calculation. I think Mr. RengaswmiAiyar would do it better.

MR. E. JOHN PHILIPOSE: In view of the effective disposal will the Government consider the extension of the jurisdiction of the existing Conciliation Officers rather than in increasing their numerical strength?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Certainly that is the proposal. The Government are considering the question of extending the territorial jurisdiction of the Conciliation Oficers.

MR. E. JOHN PHILIPOSE: In view of the fact that the positive and effective disposal is necessary if the pecuniary jurisdiction is enhanced will there not be more work for the Conciliation Officers?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: I believe that the paucity of effective disposals is due not to the smallness of the jurisdiction but it seems to me is due to the fact that there is no collaborating bank.

MR. E. JOHN PHILIPOSE: I hope that the Law Member will realise that positive and effective disposal is also due to the limited pecuniary jurisdiction?

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM: May I know the present pecuniary jurisdiction of the Conciliation Officers?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: The Chief Conciliation Officer has got the power to dispose of cases up to Rs. 15,000 and others up to Rs. 10,000.

MR. JOSEPH VITHAYATHIL: Will the Government extend the jurisdiction of the present officers so as to cover the whole State?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Ultimately the aim of the Government is to extend the benefit to every taluk. The number of Boards is now 8. The Government consider that these 8 Boards should function in further areas than they do now. That is the present proposal.

MR. JOSEPH VITHAYATHIL: Is there any serious objection in extending the jurisdiction even with present officers?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: That is the view of the Government.

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM: Does the change of territorial jurisdiction entail any change in the present headquarters of the Boards?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: Yes in some cases it may.

MR. JOSEPH VITHAYATHIL: On the strength of the assurance given by the Law Member I do not press the motion.

The motion, by leave of the House, was withdrawn

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

The following resolutions were not moved :

MR. PULIYUR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI :

" This Assembly recommends to the Government that a committee be appointed forthwith to conduct a thorough industrial survey of the State and toreport to Government the possibilities of industrialising the country".

MR. PULIYUR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI :

" This Assembly recommends to the Government that non-Travancoreans should not be appointed to any grade in the public service of the State except when Travancoreans with the prescribed qualifications are not available ".

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN THE SECRETARIAT.

MR. JOSEPH VITHAYATHIL : Sir, I beg to move the following resolution :

"This Assembly recommends to the Government that immediate steps be taken for giving proper representation in the Secretariat to all important communities in the State, especially in the places of Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries and Superintendents".

Sir, the question of communal representation in public services has been rather elaborately discussed during the last Budget Session. Since we do not find any proposal made by Government to redress the grievance of certain communitiesi n the matter of representation in the public service I was forced to table this resolution. My object in bringing forward this resolution with reference to the Secretariat is clear. The Secretariat is certainly the head of the administration. And, so long as all the important communities in the State have not got proper representation in the Secretariat, certainly, they cannot have under the existing conditions, sufficient confidence in the Government itself with regard to the just disposal of their complaints. It is a fact Sir, without any personal reference, that there is a general impression among the people that the termination of a petition or of a case, to a great extent, depends upon the community of the officers in the Secretariat who deal with these matters. For this I do not blame a particular officer or a particular community. A Nair generally believes that if his papers go through an officer of any other community the decision on his petition may have an unfavourable turn. A Christian feels likewise, so also the Ezhava. That is the general impression. It may be said that if this is an unwarranted feeling we must ask the people to get rid of it. But that is no solution of the problem. Owing to very many circumstances which I do not now want to dilate upon, we have come to such a state of affairs, and the only remedy is proper representation of all the communities in all the departments especially in the Secretariat. In very many matters, Sir, the Secretariat holds the key. Take the case of the nomination of Municipal Councillors and Panchayat Judges. These things generally take place on the strength of recommendations from interested parties. I know for certain that such things take place. Sir, a person who stands for election as President of a Municipality even

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